

JAPANESE UNDER A CLOUD.

CHARGES OF COWARDICE AGAINST

Court Martials in Formosa to Try Japanese Troops for Cowardice in Action—The suicide of an Officer—Criticism of the Conduct of the War with China Recalled.

YOKOHAMA, Sept. 9.—During the war between China and Japan it was the boast of the Japanese that none of their troops ever showed the white feather in the face of the

enemy. Some of the European military experts who watched the advance of the Japanese in Korea and Manchuria declared that no effective resistance was ever offered by the Chinese, and that the entire campaign was little more than a military reconnaissance. The Chinese never showed fight unless penned up in a corner from which escape was impossible. When there was an opportunity to turn tail and run, they invariably fled. What

gives ground for this opinion is that, though the Japanese leaders knew they would meet no effective resistance, they failed to push on rapidly, as European commanders would have been certain to do. They actually went through all the motions of a conventional battle, as though they expected the stoutest resistance. For all the damage that the Chinese cannon ever did, they might have been Quaker guns, and the pillaged garrisons seldom waited until the Japanese advance guard was within rifle range.

When this performance had been repeated again and again, and strong positions were captured with the loss of only a score of men, it began to look as if the Japanese were making a grand stand play. The danger certainly was that they would sometimes be acting a fortuitous waiting for supplies and ammunition that were not needed. Any European army in the time spent in the Manchurian campaign would have reached Peking and dis-

These dilatory tactics led critics to say that the Japanese army would not have made so brilliant a record in the war with China had it not been faced by the Black Flags of Tonquin, or the Afghans or the Ghorkias. They went so far as to say that the Japanese army would be found destitute of real valor if it met an enemy of warlike spirit or were hemmed in by a largely superior force and could not fight on its own terms. They called attention to the fact that the Japanese never met in modern war any real fighting race. They have met their own people in rebellion, the Malays, the Filipinos, the Indonesians and the Chinese and savages of Formosa.

Point is given to these criticisms by the reports of the Japanese army in the Philippines. The martialism summoned in Formosa to try Japanese troops for cowardice in action. It says that the Japanese army was a cowardly army. It is one of the enigmas who is to be tried for cowardice. He occupied the town of Chiriqui

[illegible]

The apologists for these incidents say that the Japanese War Department showed bad judgment in the severe punishment of Oda. Oda, Oka's brother, is the great central province of Japan, and its people have always been devoted to commercial pursuits. It is noted that one regiment of Oda men refused to fire on Oda, and the province has revolted fifteen years ago for valor. The result of the court-martial was a fine with interest, as it will determine whether the value of the valor of Japanese troops must be revised.

The ugliest appearing animal that ever walked a log, killed a rabbit, or fought a trap is the lynx, which is just as ugly as it looks ten months in a year and somewhat uglier during the other two. Not only will the lynx fight anything that walks the woods, but it will also tackle a visitor from the clearings,

Jim Berry, *Shooting and Fishing*, says, was hunting up in Maine about forty miles north of Greenville, when he and his friend came suddenly upon the carcass of a caribou which a bear was eating. The bear made itself scarce,

much to Jim's regret, as he wanted to kill a bear. Without saying anything to his friend he left camp the next day and started for the carcass, intending to watch it in the hope that the bear would return. He waited and watched till about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when he began to think of returning to the camp. A soft footfall back in the woods, the crafty step of some wild animal, just then sounded in his ears. Pretz soon saw that he was not alone.

The beast was chewing the caribou meat, and Jim could see it plainly. He levelled his buckshot gun and pulled the trigger when the wabbling muzzle was pointed in what he thought was the right direction. The beast went down, and Jim started for it. Then he stopped with his mouth open.

The beast had leaped to its feet and jumped sideways with its back up. Jim knew the yell, and he also recognized the hummed note.

It was a wounded lynx spooling for a fight. Not having time to level his gun to shoot, the man clubbed it, and the blow stunned the cat a little, but the beast got in a rake on the man's leg that tore his trousers and hide, too. Another frantic sweep of the gun barrel laid the beast flat, and then a revolver bullet killed the animal. The buck-shot had torn the top of the lynx's head—enough to make it angry.



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